

M. Degousse, has been commissioned by the Imperial Government to proceed with the undertaking. M. D. has, after a careful study of the land around Constantinople, decided on the system of artesian wells, as there can be no doubt that the outcrops of the Hamus mountains will contain strata of an aquiferous character. It is to be taken into consideration, that the Mohammedans are a *bathing people* (the Koran commanding seven ablutions a-day), and M. Degousse may perhaps attain strata which will yield water sufficiently warm for balneary purposes, and thus supply the many public baths at a cost nearly nominal.

Gold in the Rhine-sand.—The Dutch Government have taken up, of late, the much controverted question of the Rhine sand. Employes who have seen the washing of gold in other parts of the globe, have visited the banks of the Rhine about Mannheim, Schaffhouse and Basel, and have taken large samples to Holland to be there examined. It is not certain yet whether the washing of gold shall take place *in loco*, or whether whole shiploads of auriferous sand will be conveyed to Holland to be washed and smelted there.

Miscellaneous.

CHURCH TILES.—I notice a letter in your last week's number, to which I beg your permission to reply. The writer of the article in "Felix Farley" might easily have ascertained the correctness of my former statement, had he taken the trouble to make inquiry at his own door, viz., of Mr. Charles Ring, agent for the tiles at Bristol, who would have quoted 9s. per square yard, or 1s. per foot, as the price of the plain tiles; and the same information might have been obtained at most of the principal towns in the kingdom, where agencies have been established for the purpose of taking orders at the above terms, to be supplied from the manufactory. The establishment in Blackfriars, where a stock of tiles is kept, is for the convenience of the London building trade and its immediate vicinity. The prices quoted there include carriage from Stoke, unpacking and repacking, and a [variety?] of other expenses that must occur to any practical mind; and the best answer to the charge of the prices being extravagant is, that the establishment has been conducted at a loss of several hundreds a year from its opening to the present time. Your correspondent may be rather sceptical as to the accuracy of this assertion. So were the Income-Tax Commissioners, until our books (audited yearly by a public accountant) were thrown open to their inspection, and then they were fully satisfied. It is most unfair to contrast the prices of the common Staffordshire or other flooring tiles with the patent tiles manufactured by me; which, independently of the use of expensive machinery, require the clays to be dissolved in water, their impurities to be separated, afterwards to be dried on a kiln and then ground, a process that is more costly than that used in preparing the clay for the finest porcelain. The price of an article cannot be extravagant when it does not pay the producer a fair return for his capital. Messrs. Chamberlain and Co., of Worcester, tried this branch of manufacture for many years and gave it up; Mr. Alderman Copeland for two or three years with the same result; and if parties such as these, with ample means, and in the command of practical skill and all available resources to success, could not realise a profit, I feel assured that, whatever the writers in "Felix Farley," or "The Ecclesiologist" may affirm, those really capable of judging will be rather disposed to commend my perseverance, under difficulties of so ordinary kind, than to conclude that I do "charge too much."

* We may here remark (though without any special reference to the subject of Mr. Minton's note), that the secretary to the London Marble and Stone Working Company at Esher, calls our attention to a statement in the article on the new House of Commons, in our last number, that "Minton's men are busy at work laying the tile pavement throughout the buildings;" and says,—"It is not Minton's men who are so employed, but those of this company. We have orders to lay all the ornamental paving, which is composed of Minton's tiles and Castle-hill stone," the floors being prepared by this company's machinery.

for the tiles, or make them merely for profit. Had this been the case, I should have done as others did; and then, it is not too much to state, that the public would not have been in possession of a description of flooring which, whether as regards beauty or durability, has never in any age been surpassed. As I before stated, I hope soon, by the introduction of new machinery, to reduce the price.—H. MINTON.

RAILWAY JOTTINGS.—The disturbances near Chipping Campden, noted in our last, were renewed, it appears, on Sunday night or Monday morning of last week before daylight, by Mr. Brunel, at the head of a literal army, now augmented to no less than nearly 2,000 men! The contractor's force opposed to these in defence of the works in dispute did not exceed 150 in number. The Riot Act was again read by the magistrates, while Mr. Hobler, from the Mansion-house, it is said, endeavoured to defend and justify the course about to be adopted. The police constables were now assisted by some soldiers, and after several heads had actually been broken and other mischief done, Messrs. Brunel and Hobler were charged to aid in keeping the peace; and the magistrates having expressed a firm determination not to allow forcible possession to be taken, a lengthened discussion ensued between the contending parties and their solicitors, and terms of arrangement were proposed, which in a short time were reduced to writing, and signed by Mr. Brunel on the part of the company. By these terms the company engaged to employ all the contractor's men, and to hold the works on sufferance until an award as to all matters in dispute could be made by Mr. Cubitt or Mr. Renell; and if the company should decline to ratify these terms, Mr. Brunel personally undertook to withdraw the company's men from the works. Thus matters were arranged before half-past eight o'clock a.m., the attendance of the military was countermanded, and peace is at last restored.—A new company has been formed for the Paris and Lyons Railway, in which it is reported, says *Herapath*, that two contractors have taken 100,000*l.* each, another party 50,000*l.*, and Mr. Hudson 100,000*l.*—The Paris journals announce, that the first railway in Sweden has just been completed: it extends from the lake of Langbar to that of Yogen, in the district of Filipstad, and is about 75 miles in length.

THE GLASS TRADE: STRENGTH.—From what we hear, says *The Times*, our plate-glass manufacturers are likely to be entirely distanced by those from Cirey and St. Gobain, in France—a defeat altogether unexpected, but about the justice of which there seems to be no doubt. The French also show some oxide of zinc glass, the transparent, colourless beauty of which is very remarkable, and which merits the more praise from its novelty. The *Gateshead Observer*, in quoting this paragraph, however, states that "Mr. Price, of Gateshead, manufactured and exhibited colourless glass, 'imperial plate,' many years ago. It was intended, chiefly, for glazing water-colour drawings, and Mr. Carrick's portraits on marble; but the Government stepped in, by imposing a penalty of 200*l.* per foot, and suppressed the manufacture. In 1838, at the meeting in Newcastle of the British Association, specimens of this glass were shown by the side of ordinary plate glass, that the members might see what kind of glass the Government would tolerate, and what glass they preferred to throw into the hands of foreigners." These are instructive facts.—The Birmingham Quarter Sessions have confirmed the sentence of the magistrates in the case of Jukes, a glass blower, committed for two months for threatening and intimidating workmen.

BUILDERS' BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.—The fourth annual general meeting of the friends and subscribers to this useful charity was held on Thursday, at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street; the president, Mr. W. Cubitt, M.P., in the chair. The chairman said that they had met for the purpose of giving the directors the power of stating publicly to the benefactors who helped them in

need, their past doings and their future prospects. He hoped that, in the course of a short time, their means of success would be greatly extended. The secretary read the report, which stated, that the committee had the satisfaction of announcing that, in addition to the pensioners now benefiting by the aid of the institution, they had determined on the election of four others, making the total number of recipients on the funds twelve males and four females. The annual ball, in February last, had been numerously attended, and the sum received by the treasurer was 119*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.*, being an increase of 20*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.* over the proceeds of the previous year. The amount of subscriptions and donations for the year ending 24th June last, was 688*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* The difference between this sum and that published in the year preceding, was owing to the sum received at the annual dinner last year being included in the latter. They had also much pleasure in stating that they added to their funded stock, during the year, 650*l.*, making the total amount invested 2,250*l.* in the Three per Cent. Consols. In conclusion, the directors congratulated the supporters of the Institution on the prominent position it has attained to, and thanked them most gratefully for their charitable co-operation. They hoped ere long that they would be enabled, by increased exertions on the part of their friends, again to perform one of the most pleasing portions of their duty, viz., to announce another election of pensioners. The balance-sheet, as read, showed that the total receipts, including a balance in hand of 239*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*, had been 1,278*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.*; and after all the necessary outlay and expenses had been paid, there was left a balance in hand of 271*l.* 3*s.* The report having been received and adopted, four pensioners were then elected; and a vote of thanks was passed to the chairman, and to the treasurer (Mr. G. Bird) for his zeal in the service of the institution since its commencement.

FALL OF AN IRON ROOF.—On Saturday week the iron roof of an iron foundry at Manchester belonging to Messrs. Parr, Cartis, and Madeley, fell in. The building consisted of one story, and was 120 feet long by 84 wide. The roof was of the light description of iron used for covering railway stations, and fitted up by Messrs. Ireland and Longlen. As described by the *Manchester Spectator*, the foundry, at its eastern and western extremities, had double gable ends, so that the roof was divided into two, and rested on five or six iron columns, ranging down the centre. The principal rafters, thirteen of which crossed the roof as supports, from north to south, are composed of two screeds of wrought iron, between which is a raft of wood, about 3 inches thick, intended to enable them to resist compression longitudinally, and also to stiffen them laterally. It is supposed that one of the columns near the centre, between two cranes projecting from the northern wall, had first yielded. From the appearance of the wall between the double gables at the east end, it would seem, says our authority, that the roof had awayed in that direction, as part of the brickwork is forced outwards by the central beam upheld by the columns, whilst it was clearly drawn out of the west end. The rafters had also drawn from the north and south walls, without otherwise disturbing them. The damage is estimated at 1,000*l.*, the roof having cost 900*l.*

SMOKE CONSUMPTION.—A patent has been recently enrolled by Mr. George Aostey, of Brighton, for certain improvements in consuming smoke, and in regulating the draught in chimneys. The patentee claims the means of more effectually securing the combustion of the smoke from furnaces and fire-places, by causing the products of combustion to pass through apertures in plates and cones, and thereby to be retained longer than usual in contact with the flames and heat; and adaptations to ordinary fire-grates, and to furnaces of steam-boilers. Secondly, as regards the means of regulating draught in chimneys, means described of maintaining an equable degree of temperature at the upper end of the chimney, by preventing any sudden influx of cold air.